bloomington indiana
Convention & Visitors Bureau

Newcomer's Guide

Welcome to our community!

We're glad you've chosen to live in Bloomington. In this guide, you'll find all kinds of information to help get you started. From where to find a realtor to enrolling kids in the local school system, the Breakaway Newcomer's Guide is your source for information on relocating to the Bloomington area. If you have any questions or comments, or need additional information on any topic, please don't hesitate to call or visit us on the web or in person.

Bloomington/Monroe County
Convention & Visitors Bureau
2855 N. Walnut Street
Bloomington, IN 47404
812.334.8900 or 800.800.0037
cvb@visitbloomington.com
www.visitbloomington.com

General Information

Bloomington
Bloomington is a modern, thriving city that has earned its reputation as a wonderful place to live. Bloomington has been recognized by the National Arbor Day Federation as a "Tree City USA" for many consecutive years. Indiana University is considered one of the five most beautiful college campuses in the nation by author Thomas Gaines and is listed as the "Big 10 of College Towns" by the New York Times. Bloomington is also rated the seventh best place to cycle in the United States by Bicycling Magazine and the 8th best place to live in the United States by Men's Journal!

- Bloomington is the sixth best place to settle down in the United States, according to Money Magazine. It's the seventh lowest stress city, according to Psychology Today, and the eighth best place in the nation to retire, according to Rand McNally's Retirement Places.
- ***Bloomington has twice been designated an All America City based on its high quality of living.***
- Figures released by the Census Bureau for 2000 revealed that Bloomington was the eighth largest city in the state with a population estimated at over 69,000.
- Bloomington has the charm of small town life and at the same time offers many Big City pleasures like a world-class opera theater, touring Broadway shows, and Big Ten athletic events.
- For nature lovers, three lakes, two state forests, three nearby state parks and Indiana's only National Forest surround the Bloomington community.

Monroe County
Monroe County is one of Indiana's loveliest areas with rolling hills, spectacular fall foliage, a beautiful blooming spring and an abundance of outdoor recreational opportunities available at little or no cost including lakes and forests.

- Monroe County ranks sixth in the state for tourism. In 2000, visitors spent approximately $126.5 million enjoying Monroe County.
- Monroe County's rolling hills climb from 700 feet above sea level to 850 feet above sea level.
- The 2000 census estimates Monroe County's population to be 121,000 people. The county covers 394 square miles with a population density of approximately 305.8 people per square mile.
- Monroe County residents are fairly well educated. Over 90% of our work force has at least a high school diploma, and over 60% has some college education.
- Monroe County has 50,846 households; 49.8% of which are owner occupied, 42.4% renter occupied.
- There are three municipalities in Monroe County: Bloomington, Ellettsville and Stinesville. All other towns are unincorporated.

Housing
Bloomington's dynamic housing market presents a wealth of diverse residential and investment opportunities. Home purchasers will find a surprisingly wide variation in available housing types from affordable townhomes, condominiums and bungalows ideal for first-time homebuyers and empty nesters, to more lavish new construction and tastefully appointed mature homes.

The extensive options allow for a healthy market accessible to people of nearly all income levels. The Center for Real Estate Studies in the Indiana University Kelly School of Business reported that 40% of the homes purchased during the first half of 1997 sold for less than $100,000 on a median price of $114,000 - which is 7% below the national average of $123,000.

Neighborhoods
In Bloomington, choose to live in any one of a variety of neighborhoods, each with its own distinct personality, friendly faces and local flavor. No matter where you choose to live, whether it's downtown with its eclectic mix of restaurants, theatre, clubs and shopping; near the Indiana University campus, where there's always something going on; or the quiet outskirts of town; you'll always feel safe and welcome.

Realtor and Apartment Information

Board of Realtors
(812) 339-1301
bbor@homefinder.org
www.homefinder.org

Evergreen GMAC Real Estate
612 North Walnut St.
(812) 335-1100
www.IndianaDave.com

Eagle Pointe Realty
2250 E. Pointe Rd.
Jeanne Walters Real Estate
(812) 824-4700
www.eaglepointerealty.com

Monroe County Apartment Assoc.
(812) 331-7368
director@mcaaonline.org
www.mcaaonline.org

107 E. 6th St.
(812) 331-8951
www.jeannewalters.com

Tim Ellis Realtors
437 S. College Ave.
(812) 345-2041
www.timellisrealtors.com

Utilities Information

Water/Sewer:
City of Bloomington
(812) 349-3930
www.bloomington.in.gov/utilities

Electricity:
Duke Energy
(812) 521-2232
www.cinercypsi.com

Utilities Cont.

Rural Electricity:
Hoosier Energy
(812) 876-2021
www.hepn.com

Natural Gas:
Vectren
(800) 777-2060
www.vectren.com

Telephone:
SBC Communications (formerly Ameritech)
(800) 742-8771
www.sbc.com

Smithville Telephone Company
(812) 935-7639
www.smithville.net

Jobs/workforce
- Most of our county population, about 70,642, is working age (25-64).
- The average, annual earnings per job in Monroe County is $26,942; $48,410 per manufacturing job, $22,715 per service job, and $20,193 per retail job. Per capita personal income is $24,212 annually. Some 12 percent of the population lives at or below the poverty level.
- In 2002, the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation helped generate nearly $60 million in new investment and 500 new jobs in Bloomington by helping businesses expand or locate in the area.
- Approximately 5,102 county residents commute to jobs outside Monroe County, with most (1,300) driving to Marion County. Other workers travel from Monroe County to Martin (745), Lawrence (616), Morgan (436), and Owen (363) counties. In comparison, Monroe County draws some 15,194 workers from outside the county limits. Most are from Lawrence (3,666), Greene (3,418) and Owen (2,672) counties, with another 750 commuting from Morgan County and 570 from Brown County.
- More than 90% of our work force has at least a high school degree
- More than 60% has some college education.
- Nearly 45% of Monroe County residents who engage in some form of advanced education are age 25 or older.
- 64% of our residents possess a library card. The Monroe County Public Library has the highest circulation in the state.
- More than 18,000 students are enrolled annually in the IU School of Continuing Studies.
- The Scholastic Aptitude Test scores are well above the national average.
- More than 20 of our students are National Merit Scholars every year.
- 68% of our high school seniors are college bound.

Cost of Living
According to a survey of prices by the American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association, Bloomington consistently receives an average or below average cost of living rating when compared to other cities.

Farms
Land use in farms in Monroe County decreased from 62,149 acres in 1997 to 60,510 acres in 2002. The average size of farms decreased from 131 acres in 1997 to 111 acres in 2002. Area farmland is used to grow corn, hay and soybeans. Livestock raised in the county includes cattle, hogs and sheep and 36 acres of land within the county are used for orchards.

Natural Resources
Crushed stone and dimension limestone are, the resources for which Monroe County is best known, but there's also petroleum in these hills!

Recreation
Bloomington abounds with recreational opportunities!
- Top ranked area high school athletic programs.
- Many health clubs and our 12,000-member YMCA. **(332-5555)**
- IU's Student Recreational Sports and Aquatic Center (open to the public)- houses an Olympic-sized pool and diving wells. 10 racquetball courts, four squash courts, an indoor track and facilities for basketball, fencing, karate and other sports. **(855-7772)**
- IU Club Sports (open to the public) - includes competition and instruction in cycling, ballroom dancing, gymnastics, lacrosse, rowing and sailing.
- Bloomington Parks & Recreation - offers more than 1,500 programs each year. **(349-3700)**
- Monroe County Parks & Recreation - offers several programs and an extensive soccer program. **(349-2800)**
- Three lakes including the state's largest, Lake Monroe.
- Many acres of green space including 20 city parks and 3 county parks, three lakes, a state reservoir, state forest and National Forest.
- Five public golf facilities.
- Fishing, swimming, hiking, biking, boating, caving, indoor rock climbing, golfing, cross-country skiing and horseback riding are just a few of Bloomington's recreational offerings.

Other facts
- Other towns in Monroe County include Ellettsville and Stinesville. Ellettsville's estimated population is 5,178, Stinesville's is 192.
- The County's 11 townships are Bean Blossom, Benton, Bloomington, Clear Creek, Indian Creek, Perry, Polk, Richland, Salt Creek, Van Buren, and Washington.

Where to Worship
Bloomington is a lively and diverse community, complete with many options for worship. Christian services vary from Catholic to Protestant, from contemporary

to traditional. Religious diversity is represented in Bloomington through a variety of congregations including Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Christian Science, and the Bahai' Faith, among others. For a complete listing of worship opportunities in Monroe County, contact the Visitors Center.

Health Care
Bloomington offers quality, affordable health care typically found only in large metropolitan areas. No more stressful trips to the "big city" hospital for the medical attention you need. When you live in Bloomington, you'll benefit from a full range of expert medical services close to home. With a medical staff of more than 200 physicians in over 30 different specialties, Bloomington Hospital and Healthcare System delivers a superior level of personalized care. The hospital offers a wide variety of diagnostic, treatment and rehabilitation services.

Area Clubs & Organizations
The Bloomington area offers hundreds of groups and clubs to join. The best place to start is the Bloomington Newcomer's Club.

The Bloomington Newcomer's Club is a social organization founded to give people new to the area the opportunity to meet and develop friendships with other newcomers. General meetings and interest groups encourage members to learn more about Bloomington, its abundant cultural activities and easygoing lifestyle, and to develop friendships by sharing interests and hobbies. For information, visit the website at www.bloomingtonnewcomers.org. A plethora of other clubs and organizations are available as well.

Transportation
Residents of Monroe County travel 943.82 miles of road, including 89.31 miles of state highways, over 680 miles of county highways, and 200 miles of city streets. Alleys that can be traveled include 32 miles.

- Hitch a ride with Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation within the city, or with Rural Transit in the county. Three inter-city carriers also serve Monroe County, with some offering regular or by-appointment service to and from Indianapolis International Airport.
- Charter bus service is also available for large and small groups, and Indiana University runs a bus service to, from and around campus. If you have an IU bus pass, you can park in the lot at Memorial Stadium and catch the campus bus system there.
- Some residential areas require a parking permit. These areas are around the Indiana University campus and require a permit from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday for residents living in these areas. Anyone who has a residence within the neighborhood may apply for a single parking permit per vehicle.

- Monroe County Airport, located four miles southwest of Bloomington, offers two paved lighted runways. One is a 5,201-foot stretch, 150 feet wide; the other is 3,811 feet long and 100 feet wide.

City Parking

Various areas throughout the downtown and community are metered and non-metered. Non-metered spaces are marked as 15 minute, 30 minute, 1 hour or 2 hour parking. Cars can not park on the same block, either side of the street for more than a 2 hour time frame during any eight hour business day period. Parking is enforced 8am-5pm Monday through Friday. Metered parking is $.50 per hour and is enforced 24 hours a day 7 days a week. City meters are FREE on weekends and evenings after 5:00PM. For more information, contact the City of Bloomington Parking Enforcement Office at (812) 349-3436.

University Parking

Numerous parking lots and garages are located throughout the IU campus.
University Parking Garages:

There are five pay-parking facilities on campus. All open at 7:00 AM and close at midnight. The average price for parking is $1.25 per half-hour with a maximum cost of $12.50 per day.

University Parking Lots:

IU Parking Operations has designated seven meter lots on campus for **visitor use only** and three for visitors as well as students, faculty and staff. The meters cost $ .25 per 15 minutes, $ .10 for 6 minutes and $ .05 for 3 minutes and accept nickels, dimes and quarters. Meters are enforced Monday – Friday, 7:00 AM - 10:00 PM. Tickets from the IMU parking lot can be validated with purchases at IMU stores for parking discounts.

Long-term parking is available at the University to both Students and Employees in a wide range of locations and price ranges. Please call IU Parking Services for specific information at (812) 855-9848 or visit www.parking.indiana.edu.

Weather facts

Weather conditions are always an important factor in any community. Our weather can be so variable over short periods of time that the Hoosier adage still holds true: "If you don't like the weather, just wait a few minutes – it'll change."

Bloomington's average annual temperature ranges from 53-55 degrees. Of course, that doesn't tell you what to expect in mid-winter or summer. In January, expect night temperatures to average about 17-19 degrees, with days warming to 36-38 degrees. In summer, it can swelter. Evenings may cool to 63-64 degrees, but daytime temperatures are typically a humid 87-88 degrees and often reach into the mid-90s.

Monroe County averages about 45 inches of total precipitation annually, but that can vary by several inches in either direction. Our average winter snowfall over the past century was 22 inches, but usually has been less the past decade or so. Weather is always a factor in planting a garden, which many Monroe County residents like to do. Count on anywhere from 168-183 days of good growing weather. The last spring freeze usually occurs around April 20-25, and the first hard freeze in fall usually occurs around Oct. 15-20.

Month	High	Low	Precip. (in)
January	34	18	2.7
February	39	21	2.5
March	49	30	3.6
April	63	42	3.7
May	73	52	3.7
June	82	61	4.0
July	85	65	4.3
August	84	63	3.5
September	78	55	2.7
October	66	43	2.5
November	51	33	3.0
December	39	24	3.0

Bloomington / Monroe County Important Phone Numbers

City of Bloomington

Child Care Referrals – 800-886-3952
Controller   - 812-349-3412
City Council – 812-349-3409
Human Rights Division – 812-349-3429
Mayor's Office – 812-349-3406
Office of City Clerk – 812-349- 3408
Parking Enforcement – 812-349- 3436
Parks and Recreation – 812-349- 3700
Planning Department – 812-349-3423
Public Works - 812-349- 3410
Chamber of Commerce – 812-336-6381
Convention Center – 812-336-3681
License Branch – 812-336-3018
Recycling/Solid Waste - 812-349-2020
Monroe Co. Airport – 812-825-5406
Clerk of Circuit Courts – 812-349-2614
Health Department – 812-349-2543
Voter Registration – 812-349-2690
Youth Shelter – 812-349-2507
Correctional Center – 812-349-2769
Monroe Co. Library – 812-349-3050
Monroe Co. Schools – 812-330-7700
SS Administration- 812-334-4222
WorkOne Bloomington- 812-332-3727

Monroe County

Assessors Office - 812-349-2502
Auditors Office - 812-349-2510
Building Department - 812-349-2580
Clerk's Office - 812-349-2600
Com. Corrections - 812-349-2000
Co. Commissioners - 812-349-2550
Econ. Development - 812-349-2553
Emergency Mgmt. - 812-349-2546
Extension Office - 812-349-2543
Health Department - 812-349-2543
Highway Department - 812-349-2555
Legal Department - 812-349-2525
Monroe Circuit Court - 812-349-2615
Parks & Recreation - 812-349-2800
Planning Dept. - 812-349-2560
Probation Dept. - 812-349-2645
Public Defender - 812-349-2590
Prosecutor's Office - 812-349-2670
Recorder's Office - 812-349-2520
Surveyor's Office - 812-349-2570
Sheriff's Department - 812-349-2534
Treasurer's Office - 812-349-2530
Veterans Affairs - 812-349-2568
Voter Registration - 812-349-2690
Weights & Measures - 812-349-2566
Youth Services - 812-349-2506
Social Security Admin. 812-334-4222

Bloomington/Monroe Country Important Websites

Everybody's Bloomington!
http://everybodysbloomington.com/

Bloomington/Monroe County Convention and Visitor's Bureau
www.visitbloomington.com

City of Bloomington
www.bloomington.in.gov

Primary & Secondary Education

Bloomington boasts top-notch, award-winning schools at the primary and secondary level. In Monroe County alone, there are 16 elementary schools, nine private schools, three middle schools and three high schools. Our teachers are highly trained, dedicated professionals committed to making sure your children receive the education they deserve and need to make valuable contributions to the community. Monroe County has two public school districts. Contact the appropriate district's administrative office to enroll new students.

Richland-Bean Blossom Schools

The Richland-Bean Blossom Community School Corp. includes a high school, junior high and three elementary schools. Enrollment is 2,752 grades K-12. It is overseen by a five-member school board, which meets the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the School Service Center.

Administrative Offices -   601 Edgewood Drive
Ellettsville, IN 47429
(812) 876-2277
http://www.rbbcsc.k12.in.us

Monroe County Community School Corporation

The Monroe County Community School Corp. serves 10,146 students, grades K-12. It operates two high schools and an alternative high school, three middle schools, and 14 elementary schools. Since 1965, the MCCSC has offered an adult education program offering a full-service and evening program serving over 1,000 students annually. It helps adult students improve reading, writing, math, speaking and thinking skills through a non-graded, customized and integrated learning approach. A seven-person school board oversees operations at MCCSC. The board holds regular meetings on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Administration Center, Printed agendas are available on the day of the meeting.

Administrative Offices -   315 S. North Drive
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 330-7700
http://www.mccsc.edu

Private Schools

Hoosier Hills Career Ctr.	(812) 330-7730
Adventist Christian School	(812) 332-5025
Aurora Alternative H.S.	(812) 330-7837
Bloomington Montessori School	(812) 336-2800
Clear Creek Christian School	(812) 824-2811
Grace Baptist Academy	(812) 336-3049
Harmony School	(812) 334-8349
Lighthouse Christian Academy	(812) 824-2000
St. Charles Catholic School	(812) 335-0549

Higher Education
If you're looking to further your education, maybe get that MBA, Ph.D. or law degree you've always aspired to, .go for it in Bloomington! Bloomington offers quality, nationally ranked higher education institutions ready to help you grow academically and professionally. They include:

Indiana University
(812) 855-0661
www.indiana.edu/~iuadmit
IU is one of the nation's top learning institutions with 100 degree programs ranked among the nation's top 20 and nearly half a million alumni nationwide.

Ivy Tech Community College
(812) 330-6060
http://www.ivytech.edu/bloomington
Indiana's third largest state college with 24 instructional sites across the state. The Bloomington campus has an enrollment of approximately 3,000 students taking both day and evening classes in full- and part-time programs.

Festivals

Bloomington and Monroe County play host to a myriad of annual festivals and events. From art to music to a mini-grand prix, they're a tradition you'll want to make a part of your yearly adventure in Bloomington/Monroe County. See the Calendar of Events at www.visitbloomington.com for a complete list with specific details, times, locations and activities. (This is not a comprehensive list.)

Week of Chocolate
Bloomington Convention Center
Late January/Early February

Indiana Heritage Quilt Show
Bloomington Convention Center
Early March

Big Red Beer Festival
Bloomington Convention Center
April

Little 500 Bicycle Race
Armstrong Stadium
Mid April

EastFest
Covenanter and College Mall Road
May

Earthfest
Karst Farm Park
May

Bloomington Early Music Festival
Various Venues
May

**Taste of Bloomington &
Arts Fair on the Square**
Showers Common &
Courthouse Square
Mid-June

Bloomington Garden Walk
Several locations
June

Picnic with the Pops
Ivy Tech Campus
First week of July

Bubblefest
Frank Southern Ice Arena
July

Monroe County Fair
Monroe County Fairgrounds
July

Fourth Street Festival of the Arts
Fourth and Grant Streets
September - Labor Day weekend

Third and High Festival of the Arts
Third and High Streets
September

Lotus World Music and Arts Festival
Various Downtown Venues
September

Hilly Hundred Bicycle Weekend
Based in Ellettsville
October

Canopy of Lights
Courthouse Square
November (Fri. after Thanksgiving)